

APPLICATION FOR U.S. PATENT

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ADDING EDITABLE INFORMATION TO RECORDS ASSOCIATED WITH A TRANSCEIVER DEVICE

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**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ADDING EDITABLE INFORMATION TO
RECORDS ASSOCIATED WITH A TRANSCEIVER DEVICE**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 1. Field of Invention

The present invention relates generally to data communication systems. More particularly, the present invention relates to systems and methods for providing customer defined data in records generated using remote, wireless transceiver devices.

10 2. Description of the Related Art

The demand for data communication services is growing at an explosive rate. Much of the increased demand is due to the fact that as the use of computing devices becomes more prevalent, the need for creating networks of computing devices such that resources may be shared between the computing devices also increases. Typically, wired
15 networks such as local area networks (LANs) are used to enable computing devices within an organization to communicate with each other.

Many organizations which use LANs also use wireless devices that communicate with the LANs. The use of wireless devices such as personal digital assistants (PDAs)
20 and laptop computers enables users of the devices to use the devices in different locations substantially without losing access to computing resources on a LAN. For example, a user of a laptop computer within an organization may use his or her laptop at a first location within a building, then move to a second location within the building. Although the user may physically connect the laptop computer to the LAN using a wired
25 connection at the first and second locations, while the user is "roaming," or moving, the laptop computer is a roaming device which may not be physically wired to the LAN.

In order to enable roaming devices to communicate with a LAN, access points are often used. Access points are arranged to interface with conventional, *i.e.*, wired, LANs

in order to effectively create a wireless LAN. Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic representation of a wireless LAN which includes access points. A wireless LAN 100 includes a wired LAN 104 which, as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, generally includes computing devices such as clients and servers which are networked together in a wired network. LAN 104 is in communication with a router 108 across a connection 112.

Router 108 is connected to a plurality of access points 116 through wired connections 120. Access points 116 are effectively fixed devices which enable a roaming device 124 to communicate with LAN 104. That is, access points 116 are fixed in desired locations associated with LAN 104 to support communications between roaming device 124 and LAN 104. Access points 116 may be an Aironet series access points available from Cisco Technology, Inc., of San Jose, California, although it should be understood that access points may be substantially any suitable access points.

Each access point 116 has a corresponding communications range 128. As shown, roaming device 124 is in communications range 128a of access point 116a. In general, the coverage associated with communications range 128a may vary widely. By way of example, communications range 128a may extend to approximately 150 feet in any direction from access point 116a. That is, communications range 128a may have a radius of approximately 150 feet as measured from access point 116a.

Roaming device 124 communicates with access point 116a in a wireless manner, *i.e.*, using wireless communications, when roaming device 124 is in communications range 128a. Typically, roaming device 124 includes a wireless networking card which enables roaming device 123 to communicate with access points 116. When roaming device 124 is in communications range 128a and attempts to access a resource within LAN 104, *e.g.*, a database within LAN 104, roaming device 124 uses wireless communications to communicate with access point 116a which, in turn, communicates with LAN 104 through wired connections 102a, 104 and router 108.